



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

April 2, 2020

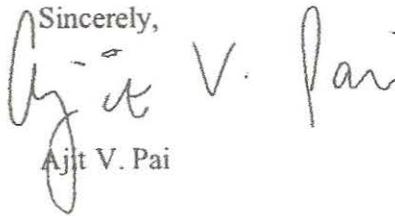
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McCarthy:

Thank you for your letter inviting the Federal Communications Commission to hold a field hearing in Kern County, California, to explore challenges related to ensuring wireless network resiliency during wildfires. Although I had hoped to hold a field hearing in California in the first half of this year, the FCC has decided to suspend all travel in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this national emergency, it is critical that Americans maintain social distancing to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Promoting public safety through reliable communications networks and services, particularly during emergencies and times of need, is a vital goal of the Commission. Following the FCC's investigation into the slow pace of wireless service restoration after Hurricane Michael, I called for greater coordination between the wireless and electric power sectors. I am encouraged by the recent announcement that CTIA, the wireless communications trade association, and the Edison Electric Institute are establishing a cross-sector resiliency forum to improve coordination between the two sectors to strengthen disaster response.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai